



# Copper River Regional Health Network

HC60 Box 320  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
Telephone: 907-259-2266

January 25, 2011

Nancy Merriman  
Health Facilities Program Manager  
Denali Commission  
510 L Street, Suite 410  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Merriman,

## **CRRHN Health Needs Survey Project**

Under the guidance of Dr. Garcia and Ms. Lacasse from the University of Alaska, the CRRHN Health Needs Survey reached local residents mail boxes in March 2010. The surveys were mailed to 2,570 resident households. UAA Graduate Student, Ms. Jennifer Lacasse has been retrieving the completed surveys from the post office box and entering in the data in the PASW Statistics Grad Pack 18 software package to compile the results.

The final survey results were presented to the CRRHN by Dr. Gabriel Garcia and Jennifer LaCasse at a special meeting in December 2010. The results were summarized and a PowerPoint presentation was reviewed during the meeting. CRRHN participants had the opportunity to review the data and make requests for additional data, specific to individual providers. Jennifer LaCasse agreed to present the CRRHN with a final written report in January 2011 along with a full report of all mean answers. Kris Winter, the CRRHN Coordinator will utilize the information supplied by UAA staff and the graduate student to compile a final report for use by CRRHN participants and the funding agency. A final report will be presented to the Denali Commission in the first quarter of 2011.

The primary success of this project is the region now has patient based health care data specific to our service area. The data will aid local health care agencies in providing better services, expanding needed services and improving the overall health care of the local residents. The information will also assist local agencies in future grant applications, finance endeavors and expansion efforts. As well, there were many lessons learned through this project that will aide in gathering better data in the future.

## **HRSA Rural Health Network Development Grant Application**

The CRRHN successfully submitted a grant application for a HRSA Rural Health Network Development Grant in November 2010. A special planning meeting was held in October at the Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center to discuss and detail the future goals of the CRRHN through the HRSA Network Development Grant application. This meeting was conducted by local grant writer Pete Peschang and was well attended and supported. The final draft version of the grant narrative was presented and reviewed at the regular November meeting. The CRRHN is anxiously awaiting notice of award status due to be released in March 2011.

Through the HRSA Rural Health Network Development Grant the CRRHN plans to formalize the network, to develop a formal business plan for the network, as well as to develop a plan for sustainability. An additional primary objective under the development grant will be to strengthen the administrative and financial capacity of member organizations to provide sustainable services. This will be done with the use of professional consultants, such as the Foraker Group, and in a manner that allows all organizations/companies involved with health care to work in a manner that is complimentary to other business in the region and allows each organization to expand and provide better services for the residents of the Copper River Region.

## **CRRHN Informational Website Project**

The website [www.crrhn.org](http://www.crrhn.org) has been renewed through May of 2011. The website offers readers an update on network activities, links documents produced by the CRRHN in pdf format, as well as links to several other valuable studies, and a list of CRRHN participants along with their contact information. The CRRHN Coordinator also maintains a Facebook page for the network.

## **Coordination of the CRRHN and Administrative Services**

The coordination and administrative portion of the grant project is on schedule and within budget. The CRRHN coordinator has been successful in coordinating several special and committee meetings and dictating meeting notes for the network from October through December, 2010. During this reporting period there were no significant issues that arose and there was unanimous support for the CRRHN in the HRSA Grant Application and the forward momentum of the CRRHN.

### **CRRHN Activity Summary**

#### **October 2010**

- Special Planning Meeting Held – HRSA Health Network Development Grant at the CRBCAC
- Complete and disperse minutes from the September 2010 CRRHN Meeting.
- Contact with UAA Graduate Students – Survey Project Progress.
- Complete narrative report for Denali Commission Project.
- Update CRRHN Website and CRRHN Facebook page.
- Maintain a communication flow for network participants through e-mail, telephone and personal contact.
- Monthly contact with MSTC staff.

#### **November 2010**

- Bi Monthly CRRHN Meeting - Second Tuesday of the month from 11:00am - 2:00pm.
- Complete Grant Application for HRSA Health Network Development Funding in 2011.
- Gather Network Participant letters of support and signatures for grant application.
- Request Submission to the Denali Commission for GAP Funding.
- Update CRRHN Website and CRRHN Facebook page.
- Maintain a communication flow for network participants through e-mail, telephone and personal contact.
- Monthly contact with MSTC staff.

#### **December 2010**

- Special Meeting with Dr. Gracia and Ms. LaCasse to Review Final Survey Results.
- Complete and disperse minutes from the November 2010 CRRHN Meeting.
- Present final survey results to the CRRHN participants and post to website.
- Attended the Partners in Preparedness Workshop in Anchorage, hosted by Homeland Security.
- Update CRRHN Website and CRRHN Facebook page.
- Maintain a communication flow for network participants through e-mail, telephone and personal contact.
- Monthly contact with MSTC staff.

The CRRHN sincerely thanks the Denali Commission for your support of our network. The continued growth and expansion of participants in the CRRHN is a great indicator of how successful our region wide network has become. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or for further information.

Sincerely,



Kris Winter, Coordinator  
Copper River Regional Health Network